

From the Hill



First Congregational Church of Georgetown
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November 2021



“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1:3

As we enter deep fall, our gardens turn bare of leaves and blossoms, the trees drop their leaves, the days shorten and the nights cool way down. And some see this as the darkest time of year. Light from the sky surely seems to be lacking. Perhaps some of us want to go into hibernation even, instead of digging out our coats and winter hats.

It is easy to forget that the earth is going into preparations for the coming Spring; a necessary and beautiful process that promises tulips and lilacs. As long as the earth is tended, we are assured of the new life that pops out in April.

It is interesting then that this is the time of year when we as a faith community enter the season of Stewardship. So, we do well to remember that the light will shine in longer days around Christmas time, and just below the surface of the soil new life is busy preparing for Spring. As the Psalter (above) reminds us: we, like trees planted by streams of water, will yield fruit in season, and that in all we do we will prosper.

This is our season when we are reminded that we are stewards of all that God has given to each of us. As we think of life and all that we have as from God, from our Creator, we are charged with caring for all that we have been given. Such is the reminder of stewardship: stewarding the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth.

As faithful stewards, we are each invited to consider how we use our gifts to forward the coming of this Kingdom. Such is the purpose of church - to bring forth the Kingdom of God. Bit by bit, in every season of the year, in every season of the church calendar we are invited to carefully, prayerfully remember that when properly watered and tended, the work of our hearts and hands yields much fruit; in deeds in word. Together we can share our gifts to further this Kingdom, making it a Commonwealth for all who seek to enter.

And, May we stay near the stream, bear much fruit and prosper, as God's stewards of the Kingdom.

In Gratitude for all God's gifts,

Pastor Holly

Missions & Outreach

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”

1Peter 4:10-11

GREETINGS from MISSIONS!

First, a big thank you to all who contributed to our very successful Back to School drive for Ruth’s House. The staff member working teared up and said that she had been worried about having enough supplies for families and that our gifts arriving reminded her that God provides. It is this spirit in which the Missions Team is exploring upcoming missions and opportunities for outreach. We will continue with some of our deeply loved projects while also taking time to imagine and consider new possibilities. In November we will do our part to reduce food insecurity and contribute to Our Neighbor’s Table, serving Georgetown and our surrounding area, likely a virtual donation this year. More info to come! December will bring us to our H.O.M.E. project, providing Christmas gifts to children in Orland, ME.

What’s next...? What are you passionate about? What are your gifts and how can they be used to serve others in God’s name? What needs to you see in our community, locally and beyond? What are the gifts of our church family and how can we come together and extend ourselves outside of the walls of our church? What community relationships do we want to build or deepen? These are some of the many questions that we are exploring in Missions. We would love for you to join us! Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 10th at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

And finally, a gigantic thank you to all that assisted with the Missions Table at this year’s fair! Looking forward to our next event!!

Blessings,

Alecia, Joanne, Marie, Nancy, Ruth, and Rachel



From The Member-at-Large

The Church Council is very interested in your ideas as to how we can grow spiritually as a church. How can we expand what we do well so that it reaches beyond our own walls? Please share your thoughts with me or with any of the Council members. Other thoughts and concerns may be shared at any time. Your Member-at-Large to the Council is Susan Stead, 978-697-1982 email: susan.stead5@gmail.com.



Light The Church Fund

Contributions for lighting the church can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to make a contribution or need more information please contact Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.



Thomas Chaffee

Sam Perley

Katherine Desisto

Philip Rosene

Nicole Galley

Gloria Webster

Timothy Lee

Golf Outing Fun

October 3rd was a crisp Fall day, and the intermittent sprinkles of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the twenty-four golfers who participated in this year's "Semi-Regular Golf Extravaganza", for the benefit of the Missions Programs of the First Congregational Church of Georgetown. The event was held at Far Corner Golf Course in Boxford where the intrepid golfers played 18 holes, using a Best Ball format, followed by a hamburgers and bar-b-q chicken dinner. The fund raiser, which is considered part of the Fall Fair effort, netted \$1141 for the Church' missions and a good time was had by all. Among the golfers were Rich Brock, Joanne Kelly, Richard Aberman, Beth and George Desrochers, Eileen and Bill Schneider, Toni Cassidy, Derek Pesce and several members of the Young clan. Helping to sponsor the event were Steve Pinto and Shirley Powell. Many thanks to everyone for their support in making this event a success.

Men's Group

Men's Group will meet on the **second** Saturday of the month at Café Sarina 8:00 AM.



Why Church?

By Toni Cassidy, Stewardship Team

Dear FCC Family & Friends,

There was a point in my life when I was lost and I asked myself, “why church?” I had grown up with an organized religion, but then moved away literally and spiritually. And I did want to understand why someone would invest their time, talent and treasure within a faith community.

And yet, I was drawn to this faith community every time I drove by, though I could not explain why then. I realized at some point I needed to be here. Showing up one day I found my spiritual home, and things began to become more clear.

Over the years I have slowly been able to articulate some of the reasons for “why church?” And, here is an (abbreviated) list of the needs met for me through participation in this Christian community.

Shared Reality: As a community we believe different things, but we share an understanding that there is ‘Something More’ that gives life meaning beyond our individual identities and experiences. We share a commitment to following in the way of Jesus.

Self-Expression & Contribution: Church was where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured and where I was encouraged to claim and use my voice.

Effectiveness: Through church I am part of a collective body that has the power, through our actions and advocacy, to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice a little quicker and more effectively than my individual efforts alone.

Challenge: Church challenges me to align my behavior with my values and beliefs, holding me lovingly accountable to being my most authentic self.

The list goes on: compassion, celebration, belonging, beauty, inspiration, connection . . . There is no community that will meet all my needs all the time. But during this season of stewardship as I reflect on what value the church has in my life, I am grateful for how many of my needs are met consistently through my engagement with the United Church of Christ. And, equally important, how investing my time, talent and treasure in this community of faith provides the opportunity to contribute to meeting the needs of others.

As a member of the Stewardship Team, I look forward to celebrating with you as we enter this upcoming Stewardship season. Stay tuned for details.

Yours Truly,

Toni Cassidy

Greetings from the Diaconate

November is a time when we think of oak leaves and acorns, coziness and comfort, landscape colors that take our breath away, the mellowing light that casts a gentle glow over our homes.

Enormous blessings!!! We, the members of this wonderful Church Family, receive enormous blessings each day. When we reflect on the month of November many of us automatically think of the word blessing.

Blessings of all of the expert teams who bring their gifts of time, talent and love to the success of our Church Fair. Blessings to those who attend and fill our coffers! Each year we share old traditions, new ideas and the warmth of friendship. I hope each of you had time to visit our Fair. Wasn't it wonderful to see (in person!) so many friends and townspeople who shared in the sights of brilliant orange centerpieces, warm wooly mittens, hutches filled to the brim with soaps, cookies and so many raffle items? Let us not forget the warmth and smells of apple pies, and as we looked at those beautiful blueberry pies the team that lovingly picked those blueberries had a memory of a very hot summer day, and of course the turkey dinner with all the fixins??!! The collective sigh of the church council that we could all finally be together to laugh and to love!!!

Blessings upon your deacons who work hard to be there for each of you. We encourage each of you to share your thoughts, joys, sorrows with any one of us. We love spending time with you, conversing with you, and of course the "careful" hugs! Please know that Antoinette, Emily, Pam, Rachel and Gladie are here to listen and care.

Blessings as we approach Thanksgiving with anticipation, it is a holiday that fills us with delicious food and our spirit with the love of family and friendship. For some celebrating in solitude, wrapping themselves in warm memories isn't a time for sadness but for gratitude reflecting on those cherished memories and blessings that are deep in your heart.

Blessings to all who contribute their time to turn our beautiful sanctuary into an "awe-filled, catch your breath" beauty!! We will be 'decorating' the sanctuary this year! All are welcome to help. Date to be posted soon.

Let's welcome this beautiful season of thanksgiving and blessings together,

Gladie Kneeland





Each month we meet to talk about books selected by book club members. Meetings are held via ZOOM. If you are interested in attending, contact the church office or any of the people listed below. All are welcome and you do not have to RSVP to attend. Below is a list of books that will be discussed in the coming months in case you want to get the book ahead of time or you might just be looking for a good read.

Date 2021	Title	Author	Location
September 29 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Horse Dancer</i> ©2010 461pp	Jojo Moyes	Zoom
October 27 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Thursday Murder Club</i> ©2020 368pp	Richard Osman	Zoom
December 1 7:00 p.m.	<i>Redeeming Love</i> ©2019 512pp	Francine Rivers	Zoom
2022			
January 26 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Four Winds</i> ©2021 464pp	Kristin Hannah	Zoom
February 23 7:00 p.m.	<i>Facing the Mountain: A True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II</i> ©2021 560pp	Daniel James Brown	Zoom
March 30 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Midnight Library</i> ©2020 304pp	Matt Haig	Zoom
April 27 7:00 p.m.	<i>The Rose Code</i> ©2021 656pp	Kate Quinn	Zoom
May 25 7:00 p.m.	<i>Mrs. Jack: A Biography of Isabella Stewart Gardner</i> ©1965 365pp	Louise Hall Tharp	Zoom
June 29 6:00 p.m. dinner 7:00 dis- cussion	<i>Perestroika in Paris</i> ©2020 268pp	Jane Smiley	Nancy Aberman 199 W. Main St Nancy: 978-352-2793 and Zoom



We have PayPal!

Go to our website and you can donate or pay for church fundraisers at First Church; you get points and help our church too. Remember, we get 93% of what you give. Please send an email to the church to let us know about your donation and if it is going to a particular place.

Have You Started Christmas Shopping?

The FCC Georgetown is set up to receive a percentage of your purchase when you shop AmazonSmile.

www.smile.amazon.com

- sign in or sign up
- find the dropdown for your account
- find Your AmazonSmile on the list & click on it
- change or select a charity—put in First Congregational Church of Georgetown (there will be 2 options, one is Boxford)
- You are all set to shop and the church will benefit from your purchases.

When you shop, be sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com for the church to receive credit - not the regular Amazon account (this won't give us credit).

Christian Development

The Christian Development Committee is looking for a **laminator**, or use of a laminator, to assist in creation of a StoryWalk™ for the front lawn. Let the church office or Nancy Aberman know if you know of one that the church could have/borrow/use.

Thanks,

Nancy

Message from the Vision Committee

The Vision Committee has been working to determine how to fulfill the Church's mission statement: "To nurture those in our own faith community and to act on our faith by reaching out to others."

We've come far over the years in nurturing our faith community and in reaching out to others. And as we move forward, furthering our mission, how might we respond to the needs of the community, in Georgetown and surrounding towns? How might we be called by God to meet new opportunities? What do you see around you? How can we have fun and strengthen relationships with each other and our neighbors, near and far?

On Sunday, November 7, we'll look at our past, present and future. After a memorial service in the church for those we've lost, we'll have a lunch with music to celebrate our present. Then, we'll look ahead to our future by brainstorming ways we might work together as a faith community to further develop and enrich relationships with our neighbors.

We look forward to seeing you there!

God's blessings,

Richard Aberman, Marie Birdsall-Chaffee, and Michelle Brock





Looking Back at November:

50 years ago:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving eve service at St. Mary's
"Country Fair" Nov. 19-20. Chaired by Pat Pingree & Betty Davidson

40 years ago:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving eve service at our church
PF Paper drive

Greeters for 11/29 were Margrid Thompson with her children Kris, Erik, Aaron & 8 year old Jenny. Jenny would later be a 12 time Olympic medal winner.

30 years ago:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving eve service at Groveland Congregational

20 years ago:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving eve service at our church
Theater group *Moonlight Productions* presents the musical "Titanic"

Eagle Scout & Boy Scouts thank you!

Thank you to **Grant Floyd**, who organized **Troops 51 & 101** and parents to do repairs, reroof and paint our shed for his Eagle Scout project. He raised over \$500 to pay for all the supplies as well. Thank you to all involved!



Friday luncheon thank you!

When a great team is behind you it makes the job so much easier.

Jo Anne Kelly, Toni Cassidy and Kristen Arsenault got the lobster and chicken ready on Thursday evening. Friday morning, bright and early, Susan Stead, Chris Comiskey, and Toni Cassidy prepared sandwiches. Our serving team included Ruth Stewart, Ruth Soper, and Sylvia Johnston. Gloria Minot helped with clean-up.

Thank you to Michelle Bridges for handling publicity.

Special thanks to our Church Family who helped in so many ways to make this luncheon a success.

This year we took time to remember Karen Young during our Thursday night prep work. This special lady helped with the luncheon for so many years, we miss Karen's laughter and the joy she brought to our fair.

Thank you to this incredible team!

Thank you to the congregation!

I'd like to send a huge thank you out to everyone that sent prayers and best wishes to my husband, Dave, when he underwent emergency surgery last week. It really made a difference, and he had a wonderful outcome. We both truly appreciate our loving and supportive church family and their support in times of need. Thank you so much!

Peggy Smith

Birthday thank you

Dear Church Family & Diaconate,



I love birthdays! And, you can never have too many of them. It's always special to be handed a Birthday Rose by a member of our dedicated Diaconate. So thank you, one and all, for helping me celebrate.

Blessings,
Joan Chatterton





November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	3 7PM Boy Scouts	4	5	6
7 10:30 AM Worship 12:30 PM Diaconate	8	9 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Finance 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	10 7 PM Missions Meeting 7PM Boy Scouts	11	12	13 Men's Group 8:00 A.M. Café Sarina
14 10:30 AM Worship	15 	16 10 AM Bible Study 12 PM Women's Guild 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	17 6:30 PM Council 7PM Boy Scouts	18 6:00 PM Christian Development	19 Kaczmarek rehearsal 4-8 PM	20 Kaczmarek recital 1:30-5 PM
21 10:30 AM Worship	22	23 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts 6:30 PM Bells 7:30 PM Band	24 7PM Boy Scouts	25 	26 Office Closed	27
28 10:30 AM Worship	29	30 10 AM Bible Study 4:45-6:15 Girl Scouts				

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Inside This Issue

Pastor’s Message	1
Light the Church, Birthdays, Golf.....	3
Stewardship.....	4
Book Club	6
Diaconate	5
Vision Committee	8
Looking Back/Thank yous	9,10
Outreach/Missions	2
November Calendar	11

Our Mission Statement:

“To nurture those in our own faith community and to act on our faith by reaching out to others.” We are an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ.

